

Abstract 447

TITLE: Utilizing PCM to Assist Latino MSM to Reduce Their Risk of HIV Infection

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ISSUE: According to CDC the mortality and HIV infection rates in the United States have been steadily decreasing in the general population for the past two years. Nevertheless, the incidence of HIV infection among Latino groups is still on the rise. The development and implementation of effective HIV prevention interventions with the Latino community is of utmost importance. Identification of individuals at high risk for HIV infection and early intervention will assure that these individuals will be able to live a more productive and healthier life.

SETTING: This HIV Prevention Case Management intervention for Latino men who have sex with men is located in Western Queens, NY. The intervention has been conducted mostly with Latino men who are immigrants, monolingual Spanish speakers, and undocumented, many of whom do not qualify for benefits or entitlements.

PROJECT: The MSM/Prevention Case Management is a highly focused client-centered intervention directed at assisting individuals in initiating and sustaining behaviors that will reduce the risk of acquiring and/or transmitting HIV infection through one-on-one risk-reduction counseling, service coordination, emotional support and education. The ultimate goal of the intervention is the modification of HIV high-risk behaviors.

RESULTS: The one-on-one emotional support and risk-reduction counseling on a regular basis have enabled participants to focus on their risk behaviors and work more effectively on enacting change in their lives.

LESSONS LEARNED: A culturally competent PCM intervention with MSM will enable participants to reduce their risks of HIV infection by incorporating changes in their sexual behavior which include reducing the number of sexual partners during a given period of time and increasing the use of condoms when they have sex.

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